

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 01349 071403Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AGRE-00 COME-00
/098 W

-----045034 081606Z /64

R 071330Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4873
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1349

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, BU, JA
SUBJECT: BULGANIAN-JAPANESE RELATIONS

1. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR, WHEN ASKED, TOLD OUR AMBASSADOR THAT BULGARIA HAS NOT YET CHOSEN ITS NEW AMBASSADOR TO TOKYO. RETURNING AMBASSADOR RUMEN SERBEZOV ARRIVES TOMORROW. DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE PETUR BASHIKAROV IS PROBABLY THE LEADING CANDIDATE, ALTHOUGH THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR STATES THAT HE IS RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT BECAUSE HE FEARS THAT ZHIVKOV'S EXPECTATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH JAPAN ARE EXCESSIVELY HIGH. ZHIVKOV HIMSELF TOLD THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR THAT HE WAS STILL SELECTING AMONG SEVERAL NAMES AND THAT THERE WAS APPARENTLY SOME CONCERN OVER THE DEMANDS OF THE POST AT A TIME WHEN IT WAS NECESSARY TO INTENSIFY ECONOMIC RELATIONS.

2. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT THE BULGARIANS HAD INSISTED ON TERMS WHICH JAPAN COULD NOT ACCEPT FOR THE PROPOSED JAPANESE ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPING A MAJOR CONTAINER PORT AT BURGAS. (HE COMMENTED THAT JAPAN OF COURSE WANTED TO REMAIN WITHIN OECD GUIDELINES.) ACCORDINGLY, THE JAPANESE ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF BURGAS IS OFF.
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THE BULGARIANS HAVE REQUESTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE JAPANESE SUPPORT FOR YET UNSPECIFIED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AND THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THIS SHOULD NOT BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE. (AS WE WILL BE REPORTING SEPARATELY, BULGARIAN AGRICULTURE HAS RECENTLY SUFFERED VERY HEAVY LOSSES OWING TO NATURAL DISASTERS.)

3. THE JAPANESE AMBASSADOR EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS PROVIDING
THE INFORMATION IN PARA 2 ABOVE IN CONFIDENCE.
GARTHOFF

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NNN

Message Attributes

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